Kemono no Souja
The Beast Player

VOLUME 3 - CHAPTER 3, PART 3 (II)

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Chapter 3 part 3

A Young Ohju for a Present (II)

OSIK HASAL, GRANDSON OF YAMAN HASAL, RAISED A POWERFUL ARMY
BY MARSHALING A BAND OF TOHDA RIDERS,
THE TENSION BETWEEN THE QUEEN AND THE ARHAN
HE CONQUERED NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, TOOK THEIR LANDS AS HIS OWN,
AND FILLED HIS COFFERS WITH RICHES.
BEGAN DURING THE TIME OF THE FIRST ARHAN'S GRANDSON
THE QUEEN REFUSED THE TRIBUTES, FOR SHE THOUGHT THEM UNHOLY,
FOR EVERY TERRITORY HE ANNEXED,
AND ORDERED HIM TO CEASE HIS CONQUESTS.
OSIK SENT THE QUEEN A TRIBUTE IN GOLD, SILVER, AND GEMSTONES,

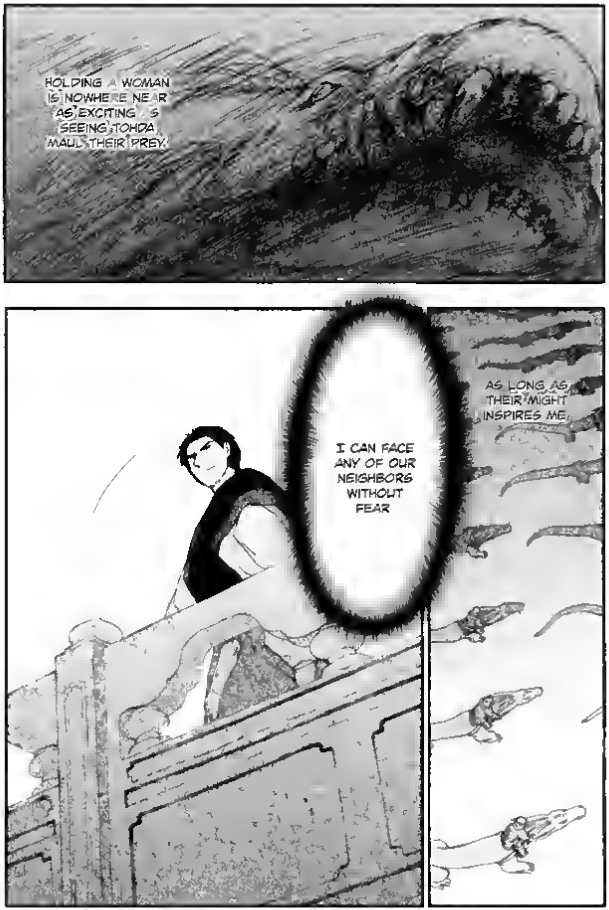
OSIK TOOK NO HEED.
HOWEVER,
WE SHALL BIDE OUR TIME WHILE WE LOOK FOR CHINKS IN OUR NEIGHBORS' DEFENSES.
THEN WE MAKE THEM BEND
WE SHALL THUS BE ABLE TO SPREAD THE HOLY REALM OF RYOZA'S ANTI-WAR IDEOLOGY
THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW TRUE PEACE.
FURTHER,
THE LARGER OUR TERRITORIES, THE MORE OUR PEOPLE PROSPER.
THE LARGER THE POPULATION,
THE MORE OUR COUNTRY THRIVES!

THE ARHAN'S POLICY GAVE RISE TO MANY NEW TOWNS AND WELCOMED COMMERCE,
ALTHOUGH THE QUEEN DISMISSED WHAT SHE SAW AS A DUBIOUS EXCUSE,
AS THE MIGRANTS SETTLED INTO A LIFE OF ABUNDANCE,
BEFORE LONG HER PEOPLE SECRETLY REMOVED TO THE ARHAN'S TERRITORIES IN DROVES.
THE QUEEN WAS FORCED TO ADMIT THAT OSIK WAS NOT ENTIRELY WRONG
WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT HER SUBJECTS WERE POOR TO THE POINT OF STARVATION,
HARVESTS IN THE QUEEN'S MOUNTAINOUS LANDS, ON THE OTHER HAND,
VARIED WILDLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR.
SHE BEGAN TO ACCEPT HIS TRIBUTES, TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE IN NEED
TRADE COULD NOT BE SAID TO FLOURISH, EITHER.

AS A SOVEREIGN WITHOUT ARMED FORCES, THE QUEEN HERSELF CAME TO BE STYLED THE YOJE— "THE TRUE RULER."
BY AND BY,
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE QUEEN BEGAN TO BE CALLED OFFERINGS INSTEAD OF TAXES.
EVEN NOW,
SHE IS REVERED BY THE PEOPLE
THE COUNTRY'S PUREST SOUL,
SHE CONFERS THE GODS' BLESSINGS UPON THIS EARTH

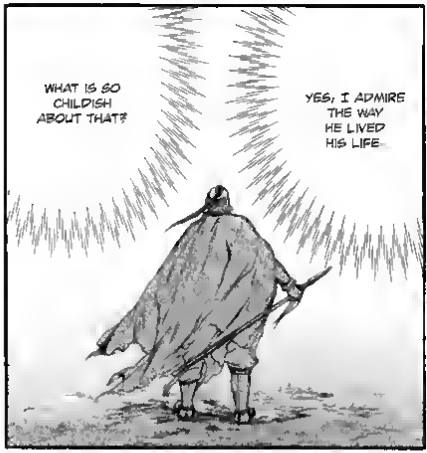
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
NUGAN, THE ARHAN'S SECOND SON

BOOM


HOLDING A WOMAN IS NOWHERE NEAR AS EXCITING AS SEEING TOHDA MAUL THEIR PREY.
I CAN FACE ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT FEAR
AS LONG AS THEIR MIGHT INSPIRES ME.

HIS SENSE OF HONOR
IS SOMETHING I ASPIRE TO.
THE FIRST ARHAN, YAMAN HASAL,
SACRIFICED HIS SOUL TO SAVE THE YOJE AND THE PEOPLE.
THE FIRST TIME I HEARD HIS STORY, I WAS MOVED TO TEARS.
BE THE MAN...
THAT YAMAN WAS.
YES, FATHER!
BUT...

...WHEN I SPOKE OF MY ADMIRATION OF YAMAN AT MY COMING OF AGE CEREMONY...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME,
YOU STILL CLING TO THAT?


YES, I ADMIRE THE WAY HE LIVED HIS LIFE.
WHAT IS SO CHILDISH ABOUT THAT?

Grit

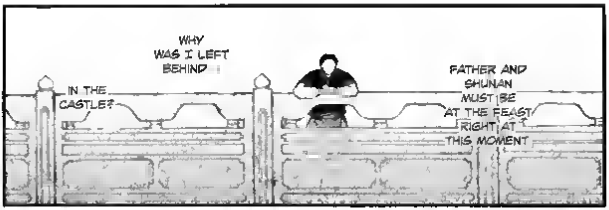
FATHER AND SHUNAN ARE JUST LIKE OSIK!
THEY'RE DRIVEN BY GREED AND PERSONAL GAIN.
THEY SAY THEY WILL PUNISH SAI GAMPU BUT ALLOW THEM AT LARGE...
BECAUSE THEY WISH TO REPLACE THE YOJE.
AM SUPPOSED TO SERVE THEM?!
SUCH ARE THE PRESENT ARHAN AND HIS HEIR.
AND I, YAMAN'S TRUE SPIRITUAL SUCCESSOR.

WHEN HE APPROACHED ME
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING TO BLOW OFF SOME STEAM...
NUGAN.

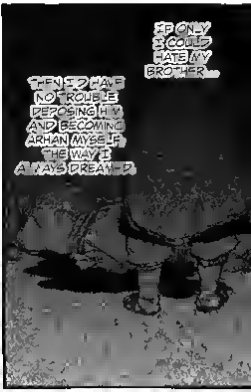
I THOUGHT I WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE IN HIS COMPANY. HE'D STRUCK ME AS FRIVOLOUS DESPITE BEING OF ROYAL BLOOD
BUT AFTER EXCHANGING WORDS WITH HIM, I SAW THAT THERE WAS MORE TO HIM
...
LORD DAMIYAH!

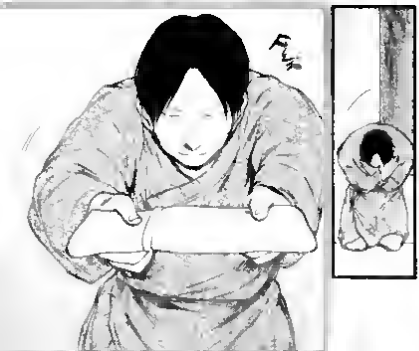
LOOK ON EARNEST ASPIRATIONS WITH SOME SHAME
ADULTS WHO HAVE LONG BEEN EXPOSED TO ALL THAT IS WRONG WITH THIS WORLD

NO MATTER WHAT HORRORS YOU'VE SEEN.
IS TO REMAIN TRUE TO YOUR IDEALS,
REGARD-LESS,
THE IMPORTANT THING
!
NUGAN...
THOSE WORDS WERE MY GUIDING LIGHT IN THE DARK
CONTINUE TO ADMIRE YAMAN HASAL
CHERISH THE FEELING


WHY WAS I LEFT BEHIND IN THE CASTLE?
FATHER AND SHUNAN MUST BE AT THE FEAST RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT

NUGAN!
BUT...

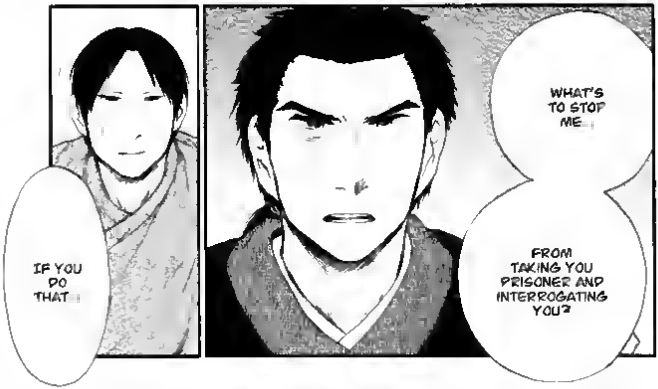

IF ONLY I COULD HATE MY BROTHER...
THEN I'D HAVE NO TROUBLE DEPOSING HIM AND BECOMING ARHAN MYSELF. THE WAY I ALWAYS DREAMED.



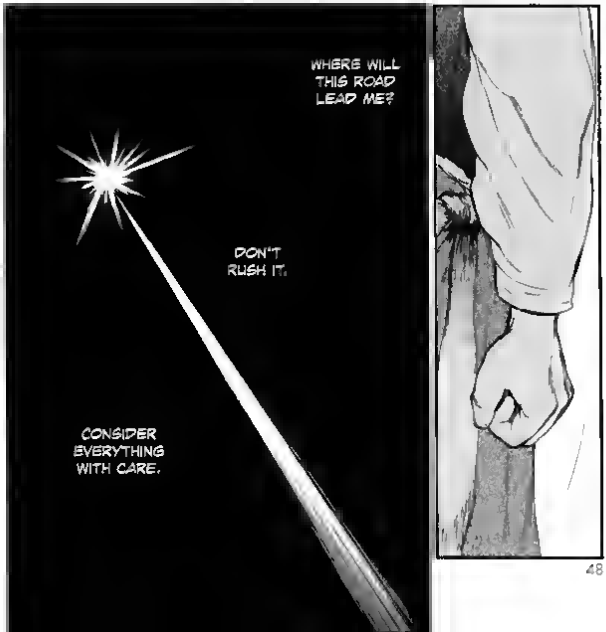
HOW LONG WILL I BE GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES?

A CERTAIN PERSON...
SENT ME TO GIVE THIS LETTER TO YOU, MASTER NUGAN.
PLEASE TAKE IT.
NO SEAL.
Sigh...
Snap
...!
Grip

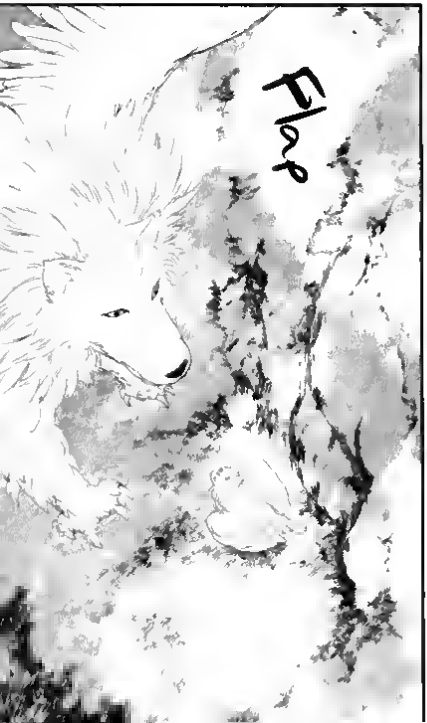
I'M AFRAID...
I AM IN NO POSITION TO DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION
IS YOUR RELATION TO THIS PERSON?
WHAT...


IF YOU DO THAT...
WHAT'S TO STOP ME...
FROM TAKING YOU PRISONER AND INTERROGATING YOU?

IS THAT WISE?
HE WILL TAKE IT—
AS A REFUSAL ON YOUR PART


WHERE WILL THIS ROAD LEAD ME?
DON'T RUSH IT.
CONSIDER EVERYTHING WITH CARE.

Gulp
AND YET...


Flap

IF I CHOOSE THIS OPTION...
VERY WELL

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